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GEORGES LAYGUES



Georges Laygues is the French minister of marine, and was one of the officials who met President Wilson at Brest.

YANKEES IN CONTROL

Americans Take Over 4,500 Square Miles of Germany.

Rule Cities and Villages by Hundreds and Operate Many Miles of Railroads.

With the American Army of Occupation, Dec. 19.—The royal castle in Coblenz, known as one of the former emperor's summer palaces, is now under guard by American troops. The palace stands on the banks of the Rhine, a stone's throw from the business center of Coblenz.

With the Americans Across the Rhine, Dec. 19.—The Third army now occupies a strip of Germany containing more than 4,500 square miles. It is supervising the administration of several hundred villages and operating hundreds of miles of railroads and street car lines.

The methodical taking over of this tremendous responsibility, with the multitudinous needs of hundreds of thousands of hostile people will be almost entirely accomplished within 15 days.

There is not a precedent in history for this occupation, which is also remarkable in that it was finished without a single serious hostile demonstration by either inhabitants or troops.

N.Y.-CHICAGO AIR MAIL STARTS

Flyer Leaves Gotham With 200 Pounds of Letters—First Stop at Bellefont, Pa.

Bellefont, Pa., Dec. 19.—Lee D. Smith, flying with 200 pounds of mail, and inaugurating the first air mail service between New York and Chicago, arrived here. Smith lost his way and landed at State college, coming here later when he learned of his mistake. The indications are that the airplane will be late in reaching Chicago.

New York, Dec. 19.—The first air mail service between New York and Chicago was inaugurated at 7:20 o'clock this morning when Leo D. Smith left Belmont Park, L. I., in a De Havilland machine with 200 pounds of mail. Smith will make his first stop at Bellefont, Pa. From there the mail will be relayed by airplane to Cleveland and from there directly to Chicago. The mail is expected to reach Chicago.

During the flight planes will be station at Leighton, Bellefont and Clinton, Pa., Bryon and Cleveland, Ohio, and Gary, Ind., for emergency.

UNTERMYER TAKES STAND

New York Lawyer Denies That He is Pro-German—Refused to Act as Counsel for Embassy.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Samuel Untermyer of New York, whose name has been mentioned in the investigation of German propaganda, appeared before the senate investigating committee to answer what he described as innuendoes and implications which made it appear that previous to March, 1916, his sympathies were pro-German. Mr. Untermyer declared that he had declined, after being solicited, to act as counsel for the German embassy. "I was, of course, always solicitous, as were all of us," he said, "that a conflict be avoided and tried to do my humble part in my infrequent meetings with members of the German embassy toward preserving the peace by making them feel that our hands were not turned against them, although I always insisted with them and they knew that I felt deeply that they were in the wrong. There is not a shred of basis for these vague implications."

ADMIRAL BEATTY LAUDS U.S. FLEET

Commander of the British Navy Praises Work of Americans in North Sea.

FOE'S SURRENDER "PITIFUL"

Always Feared Germans Would Not Come Out and Fight—Delivers Farewell Address on Battleship New York.

London, Dec. 19.—The American battleship squadron attached to the British grand fleet displayed a spirit of true comradeship throughout its period of service, declared Admiral Sir David Beatty, the commander in chief of the grand fleet, in a farewell address on board the U. S. S. New York on December 1, the day the squadron was detached from the grand fleet. All hands had been called to muster on the fore-castle to hear Admiral Beatty.

After thanking the American officers and men for their co-operation, Sir David remarked that both the British and the Americans were disappointed at not having been able to meet the German fleet. He declared that the day the German fleet surrendered was "a pitiful day to see." Sir David said he had always had misgivings that the Germans would never come out for a final fight and these misgivings had been strengthened by the coming of the American squadron.

Thanks Americans for Help.

"I could not let the Sixth battle squadron go without coming on board the New York and saying something of what I feel at this moment of your departure," said Sir David. "What I say I hope you will understand comes from the heart, not only my heart, but the hearts of your comrades of the grand fleet. I want first of all to thank you, Admiral Rodman, and the captains and officers, and the ships' companies of this magnificent squadron for the wonderful co-operation and loyalty you have given me and my admirals and the assistance you have given us in every duty you have had to undertake."

"The support which you have shown is that of true comradeship and in time of stress that is worth a very great deal. I want to congratulate you for having been present upon a day unsurpassed in the naval annals of the world."

"I know quite well that you, as well as your British comrades, were bitterly disappointed at not being able to give effect to that efficiency you have so well maintained. It was a most disappointing day. It was a pitiful day to see those great ships coming in like sheep being herded by dogs to their fold without an effort on anybody's part, but it was a day everybody could be proud of."

Forced to Throw Up Hands.

"I have always had misgivings and when the Sixth battle squadron became part of the grand fleet, those misgivings were doubly strengthened and I knew then they would throw up their hands. Apparently the Sixth battle squadron was the straw that broke the camel's back."

"During the last 12 months you have been with us we have learned to know each other very well. We have learned to respect each other. I want you to take back a message to the Atlantic fleet that you have left a very warm place in the hearts of the grand fleet which cannot be filled until you come back or send another squadron to represent you. You have given us a sample of the Atlantic fleet, which, I think, the Atlantic fleet, efficient as it is, will find it very hard to reproduce."

"I understand that you are now going to Portland, where you are to get leave. There is a duty to perform in bringing your president to these waters and then you will return to your own shores. And I hope that in the sunshine, which Admiral Rodman tells me always shines there, you will not forget your 'comrades of the mist' and your pleasant association of the North sea."

Calls North Sea a Queer Place.

"This is a queer place, as you have found, but you are not the first to find it out. There once was a great explorer, Marco Polo, who, after traveling over the world for 30 years, one day found himself in the North sea, and then went home and went to bed and did not travel any more. I trust it will not have the same effect on any of you, but I can say that those of you I have seen during the last 12 months seem to have improved in many ways, if there were possible, and I think the North sea has a health-giving quality which must be put against all its bad points, of which there are so many."

"I thank you again and again for the great part the Sixth battle squadron has played in bringing about the greatest naval victory in history. I hope you will give this message to your comrades: 'Come back soon.' 'Good-by and good luck.'"

Getting Started



WILSON CONFERS WITH EMMANUEL

Italy's Demands Subject of Conference in Paris Today.

TO SIGN PEACE PACT IN JUNE

President Favorably Impressed as Result of His First Talk With Foch—Ambassador Gives Banquet.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Much interest attaches to the conferences which President Wilson will have with King Victor Emmanuel today. It has been said by the president's associates that he will go further into the subject of Italy's position at the peace conference in his conversations with the king, already having had several informal talks during the voyage from America to France with Count Micheli di Celleri, Italian ambassador and high commissioner to the United States, as well as another discussion of these questions Tuesday.

It is known the president feels the warmest sympathy for the purposes which led Italy to enter the war. Nevertheless, the tentative hints laid out in consequence of an investigation by Col. Edward M. House respecting the probable extent of territory which should go to Italy, on the principle of racial or linguistic determination, do not fully accord with the ideas of the Italian government, which feels that it should go further than is indicated by this outline. This is one of the subjects which Mr. Wilson discussed with Count di Celleri, whom he is believed to have told the extent to which the American representatives were willing to go in the forthcoming informal conferences with the premiers of the entente governments in support of Italy's claims arising out of the war.

To Sign Peace Pact in June.

President Wilson and Marshal Foch talked for half an hour. The subjects under discussion were mainly in reference to the armistice between the allies and Germany. Mr. Wilson was most favorably impressed as the result of this first extended conversation he has had with the marshal, according to Marcel Hutin of the Echo de Paris.

M. Hutin states that it is most probable that the treaty of peace will be signed at Versailles some time about the beginning of June and that Marshal Foch will lead the allied armies under the arch of triumph in Paris within 15 days after peace is declared.

Attends Sharp's Dinner.

The American ambassador, William G. Sharp, gave a dinner in honor of President and Mme. Poincare and President and Mrs. Wilson. The guests included the ambassadors to France, the presidents of the senate and chamber, the ministers of marine and foreign affairs, Marshals Joffre and Foch and the prefect of the Seine and their wives, the American delegates to the peace conference and Generals Pershing, Bliss and Haris.

Crowd Outside Embassy.

A reception followed the dinner, at which many notable men of France and the United States were present. A great crowd massed in front of the embassy acclaimed both presidents.

David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, will arrive in Paris Sunday. After a short stay in the capital he will proceed to the Riviera for a few days' rest.

Mexican Minister to Washington.

Laredo, Tex., Dec. 19.—Alberto J. Pani, minister of industry and labor in the Carranza cabinet, left here for Washington. It was reported here that Pani is to become Mexican ambassador to France.

ALLIED FLEETS SHELL RUSSIANS

British Squadron Routs Bolshevik Forces Along Gulf of Finland.

ESTHONIAN ARMY IS FORMED

Situation at Smyrna Is Critical—Entente Warships Bombard Ottoman Troops at Various Places.

Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—The allies are expected to land troops in Petrograd after Christmas, according to travelers reaching here from that city.

Stockholm, Dec. 17.—An English squadron has bombarded bolshevik positions along the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, according to an official statement issued from the Esthonian army headquarters. Bolshevik forces have been repulsed, according to the report. The text of the statement reads:

U. S. Troops Repulse "Reds."

"An English squadron in the Gulf of Finland bombarded front and rear positions held by bolshevik forces. The enemy's advance on the Asserlen front has been stopped."

"The mobilization of the Esthonian army is progressing satisfactorily, and allied support is strengthening the spirit of the people."

Allies Bombard Turk Bands.

Athens, Dec. 17.—The situation in Smyrna is extremely critical, according to newspaper dispatches from Mitylene. Young Turk officials have posted armed bands at various places about the town, and these have been bombarded by the allied fleets.

Reds Evacuate Russ Capital.

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—The bolshevik government is evacuating Petrograd. It plans to take refuge in Nijni-Novgorod, 600 miles southeast of Petrograd.

The bolshevik officials for some weeks have been in a precarious position in the Russian capital and long have been prepared for flight. Discontent with bolshevik rule and the approach of the American and allied forces from the north, together with the opening of the Baltic to the allied fleets, has left Petrograd at the mercy of the allies. It is possible that the flight of the government was decided upon to forestall an allied coup aimed at the capture of the government.

TAKES ISSUE ON FARM COST

W. J. Spillman, Former Agricultural Official, Denies Claim Estimates Are Not Accurate.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In a letter today to Chairman Gore of the senate agricultural committee W. J. Spillman, former chief of the department of agriculture's offices of farm management, took exception to the recent statement of Secretary Houston that the department was without trustworthy estimates of the cost of farm production. Mr. Spillman reviewed at length investigations made by his office and added: "There is no possibility, no matter how extensive the investigation, of getting more than a reasonably accurate approximation to a final result. This was done in the investigations under discussion."

U. S. TO ASK KAISER'S TRIAL

Resolution Putting Congress on Record as Favoring Punishment Introduced by Rep. Darrow.

Washington, Dec. 19.—A resolution putting congress on record as favoring trial and punishment of the former kaiser was introduced in the house by Representative Darrow of Pennsylvania.

WILSON VISITS MARSHAL FOCH

President, After Calling on French Chief, Will Go Thateau Thierry.

TO U.S. FRONT CHRISTMASEVE

Executive Learns How Big Task of Assembling Peace Delegates Is and Causes for Delay in Calling Conference.

Paris, Dec. 18.—President Wilson left here yesterday for Senlis, Marshal Foch's headquarters, to confer with the allies' commander. Later he will visit the battle field at Chateau Thierry, where the first American divisions distinguished themselves, and also Reims.

President Wilson will leave Paris Christmas eve and go to American general headquarters. From headquarters he will proceed to the American front. He will have Christmas dinner with the American troops, and not with the American commander in chief or other officials.

Lansing Assigns Duties to Envoys.

Secretary Lansing was in a conference with a number of the members of the American delegation to the peace conference in an effort to organize the working force. The secretary met each individual separately and began the assignment of duties to the various members of the American group.

Secretary Lansing said that it was clearly impossible to do anything more than this preliminary work, such as the organization of separate units, before the holidays, although there might be and probably would be informal conversations between the American and entente delegates to the congress, as they met socially and unofficially.

Ministers to Meet Wilson.

The arrival of the various officials to meet President Wilson has not been arranged. Premier Vittorio Orlando of Italy, and Foreign Minister Sonnino will reach here Thursday. The British prime minister, David Lloyd George, and Foreign Secretary A. J. Balfour will probably reach Paris next Saturday or Sunday. With Premier Clemenceau, the presence of these peace delegates will permit of discussion among the four leading powers—Great Britain, France, the United States and Italy.

The allies' conference probably will assemble next Monday, but the sessions will be brief, not exceeding two days. The meetings will be held in the French war office and will give President Wilson his first opportunity to meet the delegates around the conference table. After two days the various leaders will separate for the Christmas holidays.

A meeting between M. Venizelos and President Wilson took place after President Wilson's return from the ministry of war Monday. The interview lasted half an hour.

Many Causes for Delaying Meet.

After the conferences he had had in Paris and the personal examination he has made into the situation here, President Wilson has come to understand fully why the peace conference cannot get under way before the first of the year. The mere physical proposition of getting the American mission settled in its offices is a tremendous job.

President Wilson's visit to the American troops at the front and his review of them in Paris that is planned will be entirely out of the way by the first of the year. Meanwhile the informal conferences which mean so much and decide so much in laying the groundwork for such a task as is before the peace conference will continue to make progress.

From the president's point of view, it is indicated, there are plainly things to be said, and he wants to say them and avoid antagonisms because notwithstanding all the points to be cleared up and upon which wide divergences of opinion have been expressed as representing public opinion in England and France, the president is confident that an acceptable agreement will be reached before the peace conference adjourns.

Wilson Working Out Own Plans.

While things are shaping up for the great gathering, President Wilson is evidently working out his own plans and for the most part keeping his own counsel.

President Wilson's health continues good. He has shaken off completely the cold which followed him to Europe. With Mrs. Wilson and Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, his medical adviser, he probably will take a turn on the golf links at Versailles the first pleasant morning that comes along, and on which he is not too busily engaged with his stenographers. He is keeping in the closest touch with affairs in the United States through reports from the White House, from members of the cabinet and the heads of some of the special bureaus upon whom he is depending for accurate information.

FRED W. MULKLEY



Fred W. Mulkley of Oregon has been "pinch hitting" for the second time as a short-term senator. In 1907 he served 43 days of an unexpired term. He was elected this time to succeed the late Senator Lane. He was sworn in December 10 and resigned December 15 under an arrangement by which the governor of Oregon was to appoint Senator McNary to the office. Senator McNary was elected to the long term beginning the fourth of next March.

EBERT CALLS FOR AID

Chancellor Wants Allies to Occupy Berlin.

Correspondent Says People in German Capital Are Dancing Mad—Returning Troops Cheered.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Unofficial reports still persist, says the Matin, that the Ebert-Haase government has entreated the allies to occupy Berlin.

London, Dec. 19.—The correspondent in Berlin of the Daily Express, dealing with the return of the German army, says the scenes of enthusiasm marking the home-coming of the troops are ending.

"Men have been coming home at the rate of 30,000 a day," says the correspondent. "Every day Herr Ebert, the chancellor, takes his place on a rostrum opposite the French embassy. He addresses the home-coming men and the bands play martial music, while the crowds cheer and wave their handkerchiefs."

"Deutschland Ueber Alles" brought me into the street this morning. To my amazement—and to the apparent amazement of the French officers grouped in the window of the embassy—a regiment was passing the Brandenburg gate to the old tune.

"Later I heard it played continuously as cavalry, infantry and artillery swept by. Regimental flags were crowned with laurel wreaths. The men wore evergreens around their steel helmets and their tunics and guns were covered with flowers."

"What particularly struck me was the attitude of the home-coming officers. Those I have seen in the Berlin garrison were quiet men, many of whom had removed their marks of rank. They seldom were saluted by their men. On the other hand, the troops just returned from the front are well disciplined and saluted as of old. The officers themselves are unchanged. They exhibit themselves, unmonocled and tight-waisted, to the population, who cheer them loudly."

Berlin is dancing mad. There are about 50 cabarets in the city and dancing goes on all the afternoon and until nine o'clock at night.

"It is a remarkable sight to see cabarets packed to suffocation with women in expensive toilets and both soldiers and civilians dancing and drinking wine."

"We are trying to forget," said a Berliner to me."

MANY ARMENIAN EXILES DIE

Three-Fourths of 400,000 Survivors Will Perish Unless Aid Comes, Say Americans.

Salonki, Dec. 19.—Charles A. Dana, former executive secretary of the Armenian and Syrian relief committee at Beirut and Constantinople, and William S. Nelson, former American vice consul at Tripoli, Syria, who have returned here from Syria, declare that there is urgent need of relief among the survivors of the deported Armenians now in Asia Minor. The Armenians are assembling at towns and railway stations, hoping to be able to return home. Both men agree that out of the 2,000,000 Armenians deported by the Turks, 400,000 survived, and say that not more than one-fourth of the present Armenian population can survive until the next harvest unless there is outside help.